

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 50 NEW JOBS IN RANDOLPH COUNTY \$100,000 One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Timken Expand Manufacturing Plant

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Timken Company, a leading producer of highly engineered ball bearings and specialty steel products, will expand its Timken Asheboro Plant in Randleman, creating 50 new jobs and investing \$27 million over the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$100,000 One North Carolina Fund grant.

"Timken's decision to expand its Randleman facility will provide 50 quality jobs for 50 hard-working North Carolina families," Easley said. "The availability of an experienced, skilled workforce in Randleman is one of the key reasons this company is expanding here. We will continue to make the necessary investments in workforce development, education and infrastructure that make North Carolina successful in the global economy."

The Timken Company, of Canton, Ohio, produces highly engineered ball bearings for industrial, automotive, aerospace and rail applications, as well as specialty steel products. Timken operates four manufacturing plants in North Carolina, employing approximately 1,300 people. Timken will expand its 150,000-square-foot Randleman plant to manufacture tapered roller bearings. While individual wages will vary, the average weekly wage for the new jobs will be \$691 plus benefits, which is higher than the Randolph County average weekly wage of \$537 plus benefits.

"The Timken Company is proud to continue its partnership with the state of North Carolina as we expand the Timken Asheboro Plant, our state-of-the-art facility in Randleman," said Michael C. Arnold, president of Timken's Industrial Group. "North Carolina has the same commitment to encouraging business growth that Timken has to delivering increased value to its customers."

The One North Carolina Fund assists the state in recruiting and expanding quality jobs by providing financial assistance to businesses or industries deemed by the governor to be vital to a healthy and growing state economy. Through the use of this Fund, 17,000 jobs and \$2 billion in investment have been created since 2001.

Other partners who helped make this announcement possible include the N.C. Department of Commerce, the City of Randleman, Randolph County and Randolph Community College.

For more information about employment opportunities with Timken, please contact the N.C. Employment Security Commission's Asheboro office at 355 S. Fayetteville St., Asheboro, or call 336/625-5128. For information about Timken, visit its website at: www.timken.com.

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